



Weather Service Provider Coordination

Presented by

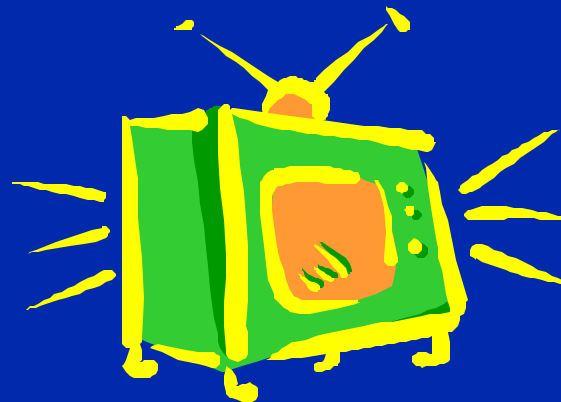
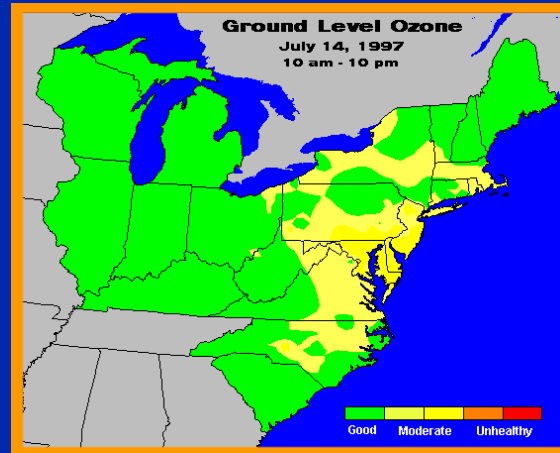
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Presented at EPA's National Air Quality Conference:
Mapping and Forecasting
San Francisco, CA
February 4-6, 2002



Outline

- Background
- Activities this year
- Plans for 2002
- What “we” can do



Background

- Weather Service Providers (WSPs) are companies that supply

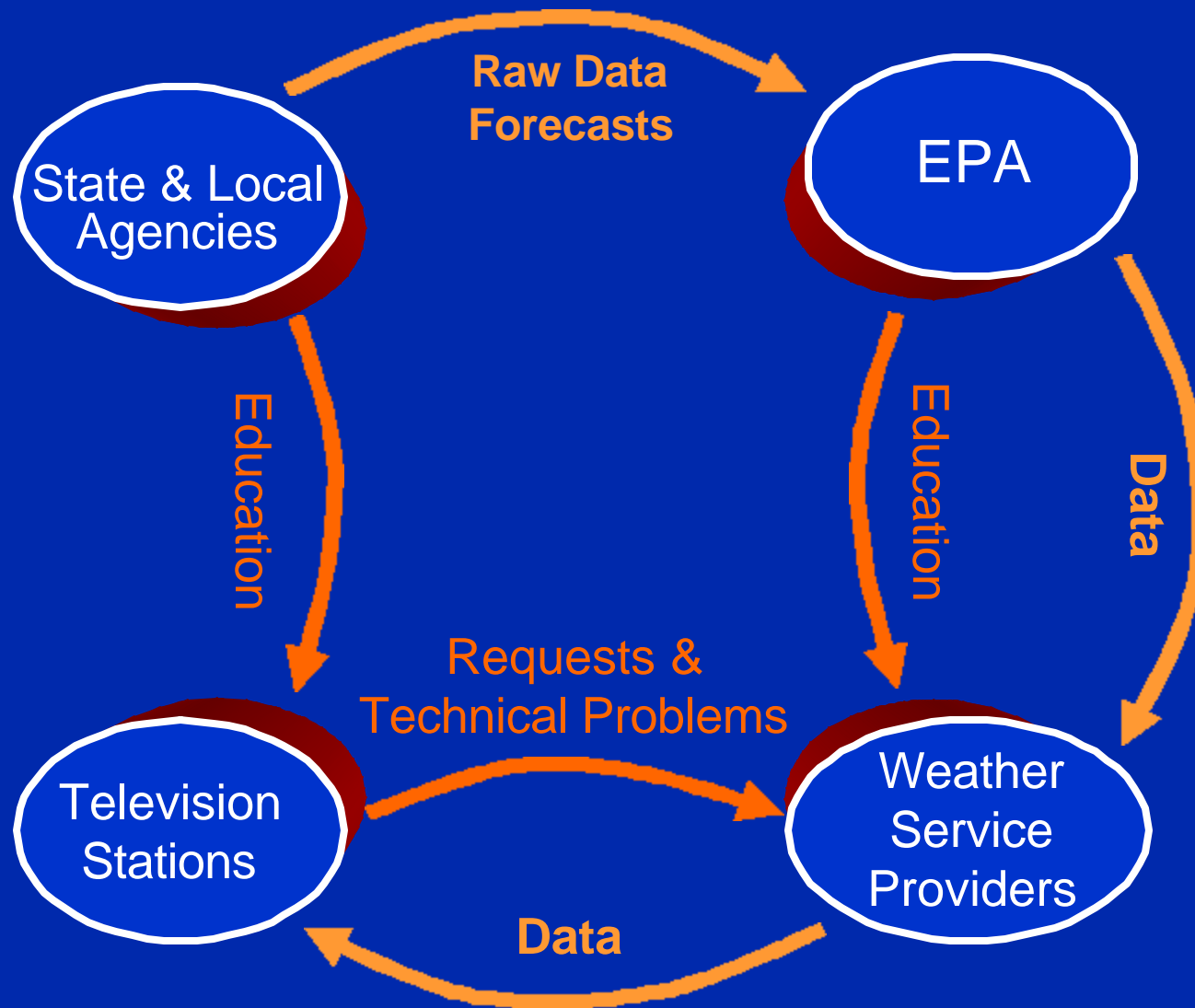
- Weather data
- Images
- Forecasts

...to TV stations, newspapers, private industry, and the public

- Five major WSPs
 - AccuWeather
 - Meteorlogix (formerly Kavouras)
 - The Weather Channel
 - Weather Central, Inc.
 - Weather Service International (WSI)



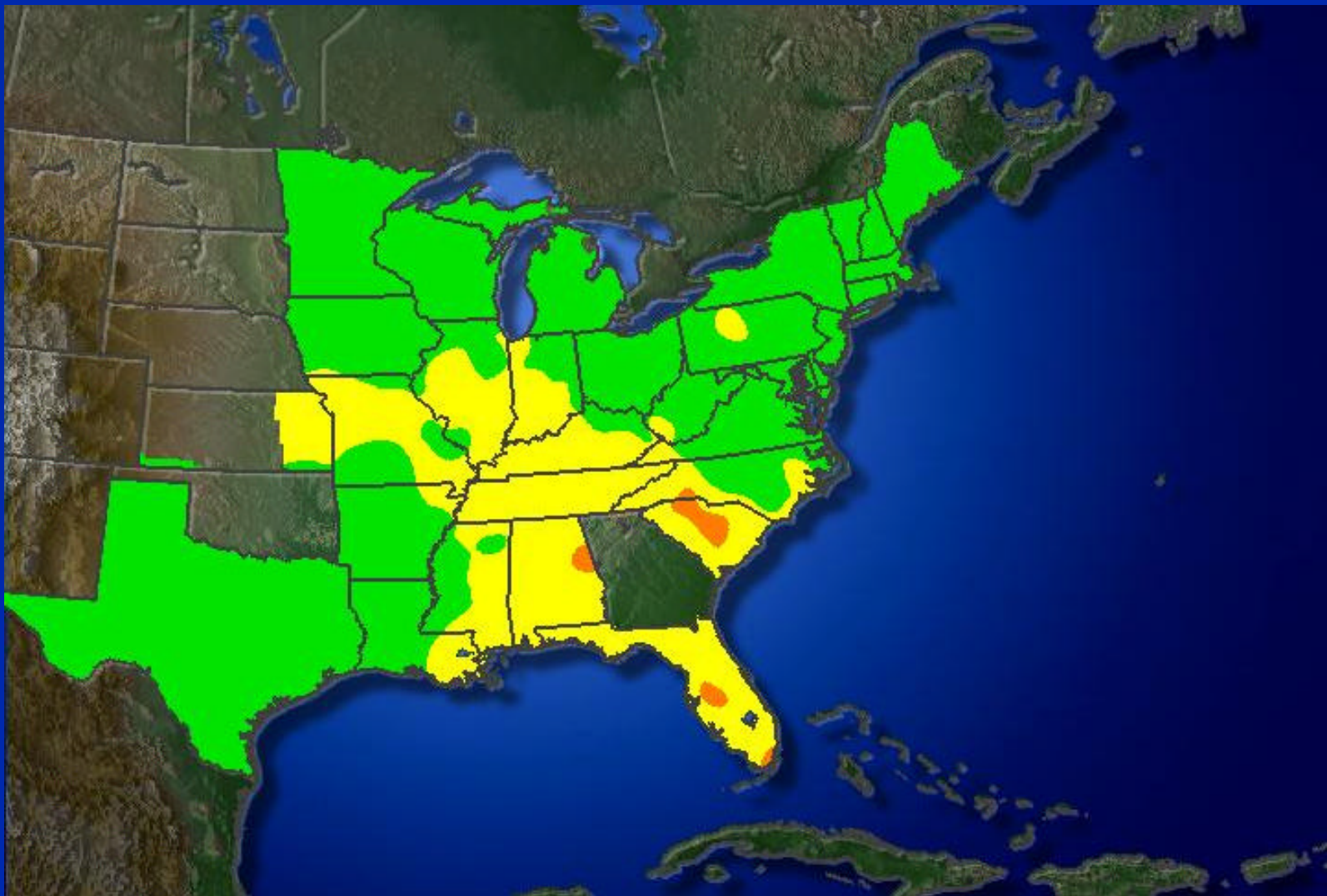
Background - Data Flow and Coordination



Activities During 2001

- Exhibited at AMS Broadcasters Meeting
- Improved web page for WSPs
 - www.sonomatech.com/info/wsphelp
- Worked closely with WSPs to meet their needs
 - 4 out of 5 WSPs currently distributing ozone maps to their clients
 - Improved distribution and reliability

Example Ozone Map



Courtesy of WSI

Activities - What's New This Year

- Distributed data in GRIB format
 - World Meteorological Organization (WMO) sanctioned format
 - Allows for full image customization
- Created AIRNowStatus.com page

News and events

Real-time polling status

Operational Status
January 21, 2002 19:30 (EDT)

News and Events

EPA National Air Quality Conference - February 3-6, 2002

- Hear the latest on air quality forecasting techniques and tools
- Find out about real-time mapping of ozone and fine particulate data
- Hear insiders' perspectives on air quality and emergency response
- Learn how to build local partnerships
- Hear success stories from ozone action programs
- Share ideas for increasing and maintaining community involvement
- Discuss media outreach opportunities

Polling Summary

Agency	Date / Time (EDT)	Scheduled Polls
al1	09/27/01 11:00	Times are EDT
al2	10/01/01 08:00	08:00
ar1	10/01/01 08:00	11:00
ca1	10/31/01 21:00	13:00
ck1	10/01/01 08:00	15:00
cn1	10/01/01 08:00	17:00
ct1	10/01/01 08:00	19:00
dc1	09/20/01 15:00	21:00
dc2	10/01/01 08:00	
de1	10/01/01 08:00	
fl1	10/29/01 08:00	
fl2	10/31/01 21:00	
fl3	09/13/01 08:00	
fl4	10/31/01 21:00	
ia1	10/01/01 08:00	
ia2	09/30/01 13:00	
il1	10/01/01 08:00	

Color Legend

- Green = Current
- Yellow = 2 to 6 hrs old
- Red = over 6 hrs old
- Grey = Unknown status

Posted January 14, 2002, 13:31 (EDT)

WSP Comments

Weather Central, WSI, and Meteorlogix

- Experienced few problems - reliability continues to improve
- Preferred hourly updates and quicker delivery
- Emphasized that customers want a reliable and timely product
- Want year-round product and more coverage



Plans for 2002

- Continue work with WSPs and provide education to WSPs
- Improve reliability and quicker delivery (new DCC will help)
- Exhibit at Radio Television News Director's Association meeting in Las Vegas in April
- Further customize AIRNow status web page

Still Some Issues.... What “We” Can Do

- Coverage
 - Spatial: U.S. map
 - Seasonal: Wintertime pollutants
- Timeliness
 - Quicker turnaround at EPA; depends on
 - State agencies submitting data as early as possible
 - EPA’s DCC processing speed
 - Hourly polling
- Education (TV station and public)
 - Continue to work with local TV weathercasters to get the maps “on air”